(a) whether the Government propose to establish co-operation with Spain in the field of aviation;

(b) if so, whether any pact has been signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). India has already signed an Air Services Agreement with Spain 10.4.1987. Under this agreement the designated airline of each side is entitled to operate 4 (four) frequencies per week on agreed routes.

[Translation]

P.M.G. Office in Ajmer

3378. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for construction of PMG office building of Eastern Circle in Ajmer;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the purpose;

(c) by when this work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the staff in the present Ajmer PMG offices is less as compared to the other PMG offices; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) A proposal received from Chief Postmaster General, Jaipur could not be considered for want of funds.

(b) and (c). Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (d) above.

[English]

Import of Coke

3379. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Past sins fail to catch up with ex-HZL Chief" appearing in The Financial Express, New Delhi, dated July 29, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to punish the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Attention of the Government has been drawn to the News item referred to in the Question.

(b) The appointment of Shri A.C. Wadhawan, ex-Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), as a member of the Public Enterprises Selection Board has been made in accordance with the prescribed procedure laid down by the Government in this regard.

(c) and (d). The News item also refers to an Inquiry by a Committee into the import of Metallurgical Coke by HZL. The Report of the Committee is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Promotion of Tourism in Noida/Greater Noida

3380. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated funds for the promotion of tourism in Noida/Greater Noida during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for promotion of tourism in Noida/Greater Noida?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d).The Department of Tourism does not earmark funds on place-wise or region-wise basis. The development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. Central financial assistance is extended on receipt of specific proposals which are prioritised in consultation with the State Govt.

No proposal has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for promotion of tourism in Noida or Greater Noida. However, the Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 37.45 lakhs and released Rs. 10.00 lakhs during 1993-94 for the upgradation of tourist facilities at the Golf Course at Noida.